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(71) Applicant: **NEC CORPORATION**
33-1, Shiba 5-chome, Minato-ku
Tokyo 108(JP)

(72) Inventor: **Yano, Mitsuharu c/o NEC Corporation**
33-1, Shiba 5-chome
Minato-ku Tokyo(JP)

(74) Representative: **Vossius & Partner**
Siebertstrasse 4 P.O. Box 86 07 67
D-8000 München 86(DE)

(54) Convolutional encoder.

(57) An encoding apparatus comprises a converter and a convolutional encoder. The converter translates a k-bit input to an m-bit output, where m is smaller than k, and the k-bit input belongs to one of 2^m subsets of a set of 2^kelements, the m-bit output representing the subset to which the k-bit inputs belong. Each of the subsets has 2^{k-m}elements and the minimum Hamming distance between any of the 2^{k-m} elements is equal to or greater than the Hamming distance to be achieved by the encoder. The convolutional encoder is responsive to the k-bit input and the m-bit output of the converter to generate an (n-k)-bit output, where n is greater than k.

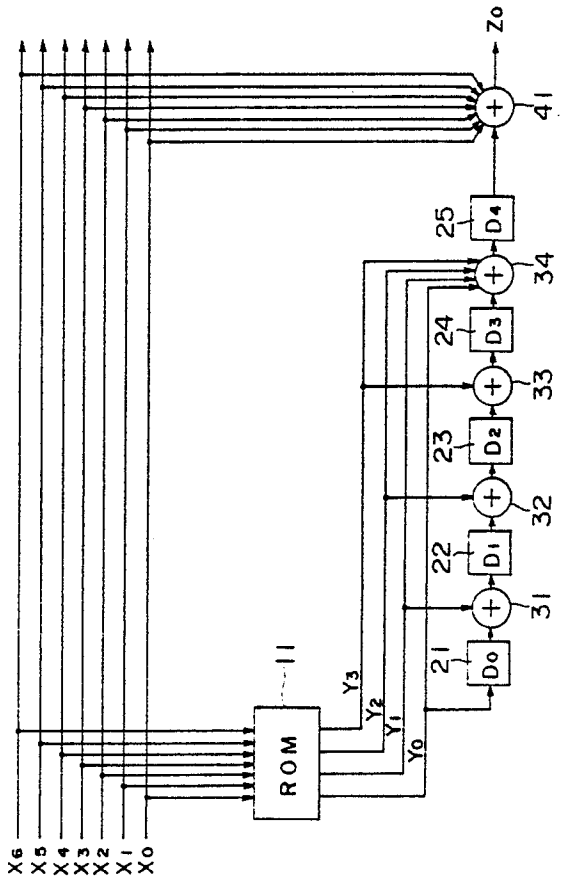

FIG.1

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